

the passage having a circular inlet duct through which a straightened cable section passes;

the passage further having an outlet duct, larger than the inlet duct and receiving the folded cable end;

an outer circular end of the inlet duct being outwardly flared to avoid a sharp edge from contacting the cable;

a junction between the inlet and outlet ducts forming a shoulder serving as a stop abutment for the folded cable end when the cable is placed in tension;

a rigid flat wire having an inverted J-shaped first end section facing the outlet duct, the inverted J-shaped first end section serving as a hook member; and

the flat wire having an opposite end section bent into a ring embedded in the finger grip block, around the stop abutment, and located in a plane generally perpendicular to the J-shaped first end section, the ring serving to reinforce the finger grip end block.

REMARKS

The Office Action and references relied upon have been carefully considered.

In compliance with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, Fig. 5 is to be changed so that reference C is no longer indicated.

Claims 3, 6-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The lack of antecedent basis in claims 10 and 12, as pointed out by the Examiner, has been corrected.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tracy (U.S. Pat. No. 4,559,677) in view of Einhorn (U.S. Pat. No. 4,010,794) and Lacore et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,546,639). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is not well founded.

The primary reference to Tracy is directed to a stretchable tie-down device having an elongated resilient stretchable tube, which is thin walled and pliable to collapse and flatten readily when pressed against a surface for gripping it frictionally and snugly (see